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Bradford and Melksham Rural
District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and the

Senior

Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1958

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District Council

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To the Chairman and Members of the

BRADFORD AND MELKSHAM RURAL
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1958 on the health of Bradford and Melksham Rural District.

I assumed my appointment in the last week of the year and wish to thank the members of the Council and particularly the Health Committee for the encouragement given me and the officials for their help and co-operation.

My especial thanks go to the Public Health Inspectors, Mr. Noble and Mr. Evans and to my Clerk, Mrs. Lewinski, who so ably maintained the continuity of the work immediately prior to my arrival.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

P. J. SPELLER,

Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

P. J. SPELLER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,
(commenced appointment 24th Dec., 1958)
who is also Medical Officer of Health to Melksham
Urban District. (Dr. R. Bruce Killoh resigned 15th
Sept., 1958).

Senior Public Health Inspector:

W. A. NOBLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. L. EVANS, M.A.P.H.I.

Offices:

The office of the Medical Officer of Health is 1 King Street,
Melksham. Tel. Melksham 2307.

The office of the Senior Public Health Inspector is in Abbey
House, Bradford on Avon. Tel. Bradford on Avon 2174.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of the District (Acres)	...	...	...	26,868
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	13
Estimated Population (including Service Personnel)	...	...	...	12,660
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	3,429
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£108,336
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£440

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

The following statistics have been compiled from information received from the Registrar General:—

Births

Live Births

<i>Births</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	79	79	158
Illegitimate	5	4	9
Total number of live births ...	84	83	167

Birth Rate for the District (i.e., per 1,000 population)	14.25
Comparative figure for England & Wales	16.40

Still Births

<i>Births</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of still births ...	3	1	4

Still Birth Rate for the District per 1,000 total Live and Still Births	23.39
Comparative figure for England & Wales	21.6

Deaths

	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Deaths in the Area ...	66	74	140
Local Death Rate (i.e., per 1,000 population)		...	8.07
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...	...	...	11.7

Infant Mortality

Deaths of Infants under 1 year

<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	—	1	1

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age (included above)

<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Total number of deaths ...	—	1	1

Infant Mortality Rates

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—Total ...	5.98
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births—Legitimate	6.33
Comparative figure for England & Wales ...	22.5
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births (1st four weeks)	5.98
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births	5.39%
Maternal Deaths (including abortion)	1
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	5.85

Causes of Deaths

The causes of deaths, classified according to the Registrar General's system, are given in the following table:—

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Tuberculosis (respiratory)	...	...	1	—	1
(other)	...	...	—	—	—
Syphilitic disease	...	...	—	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	...	...	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic disease	...	...	—	—	—
Malignant Neoplasm (stomach)	...	...	1	1	2
(lung bronchus)	...	...	1	—	1
(breast)	...	...	—	2	2
(uterus)	...	...	—	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	5	2	7
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	2	3
Diabetes	...	...	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	5	16	21
Coronary disease, Angina	...	...	11	7	18
Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	2	3
Other heart disease	...	...	24	24	48
Other circulatory disease	...	...	—	2	2
Influenza	...	...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	5	8	13
Bronchitis	...	...	2	1	3
Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	—	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	...	...	—	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis	...	...	—	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	1	—	1
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	1	1
Congenital malformations	...	...	—	—	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	3	5	8
Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	1	1	2
All other accidents	...	...	3	—	3
Suicide	...	...	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	...	...	—	—	—
Total			66	74	140

Age and Sex Incidence of Heart and Arterial Disease

Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90		Over 90	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	2	—	1	2	1	4	2	8	7	12	19	11	14	3	5

This table has been prepared from data obtained from local sources:—

Age and Sex Incidence of Deaths from Cancer

<i>Location of Cancer</i>	Under 30		Under 40		Under 50		Under 60		Under 70		Under 80		Under 90	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Cancer of Bowel	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cancer of Lung	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Stomach	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Alimentary (other than above)	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Genital	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reproductive	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

OUTLINE OF THE HEALTH SERVICES OPERATING IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

The Public Health Laboratory, Manor Hospital, Bath, undertakes all necessary bacteriological and pathological examinations in the District.

This laboratory with its skilled staff provides a most valuable service with regard to the examination of drinking water, food and milk samples, throat swabs, etc., and their willing co-operation and expert advice is much appreciated.

Hospital Facilities

The South-Western Regional Hospital Board is responsible for hospital facilities in this district.

The two hospitals in the area are a general hospital in Melksham, and a hospital for the chronic sick at Semington. Other general hospitals are situated in Devizes and Trowbridge, with larger ones in Bath and Bristol.

The nearest hospital for the treatment of common infectious disease is the Isolation Hospital at Trowbridge, while cases of Poliomyelitis are generally treated in Bath Isolation Hospital. The nearest Smallpox Hospital is at Bristol.

County Health Facilities

The following health services operating in the district are provided by the County Health Committee:—

Care of expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

Domiciliary Midwifery.

Health Visiting.

Home Nursing.

Arrangements for vaccination and immunization.

Ambulances and ambulance cars.

Domestic Helps.

Arrangements under Part III of the National Health Service Act for the prevention of illness; care and after-care; and health education.

Mental Health Service.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Comparison with Previous Years

<i>Disease</i>	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Scarlet Fever	19	3	4	6	2	1
Whooping Cough	27	26	40	24	52	4
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	3	2	—	1	—	—
Non-paralytic	3	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	267	1	183	21	126	9
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	23	4	5	3	3	3
Dysentery	—	—	1	—	2	—
Erysipelas	2	2	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Salmonellosis	—	3	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	—	—	1	1	—	1
Tuberculosis	11	4	6	2	14	3

Number of Cases and Admissions to Hospital

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Number of Cases</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospital</i>
Scarlet Fever	1	—
Whooping Cough	4	—
Poliomyelitis—Paralytic ...	—	—
Non-paralytic	—	—
Measles	9	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Pneumonia	3	—
Dysentery	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—
Meningococcal infection ...	1	1
Salmonellosis	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Tuberculosis	3	3

The distribution of cases according to age and sex are shown in the following tables.

Analysis under Age Groups

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>		<i>Whooping Cough</i>		<i>Acute Poliomyelitis</i>		<i>Measles</i>		<i>Diphtheria</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-2 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
5-9 years	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—
10-14 years	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
15-24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	—	1	—	4	—	—	2	7	—	—

<i>Age Groups</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>		<i>Dysentery</i>		<i>Meningococcal Infection</i>		<i>Puerperal Pyrexia</i>		<i>Tuberculosis</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 5 years	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 years	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—
45-64 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Not known	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	3	—

Distribution in Parishes

Parishes	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Paralytic	Non- Paralytic	Measles	Pneumonia	Dysentery	Erysipelas	Diphtheria	Meningo- coccal Infection	Salmon- ellosis	Tuber- culosis	Puerperal Pyrexia
Atworth	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Broughton Gifford	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hilperton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Holt	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Limpley Stoke	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Melksham Without	1	—	—	—	3	3	—	—	—	1	—	3	—
Monkton Farleigh	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Semington	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
South Wraxall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Staverton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westwood	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wingfield	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Winsley	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1	4	—	—	9	3	—	—	—	1	—	3	1

Poliomyelitis

No cases of poliomyelitis were reported.

Tuberculosis

<i>Year</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>No. of Cases</i>
	...	...	...	...	
1953	...	...	...	...	11
1954	...	...	...	...	4
1955	...	...	...	...	6
1956	...	...	...	...	2
1957	...	...	...	...	14
1958	...	...	...	...	3

Distribution of new cases according to age, sex, and localisation of disease, is as follows:—

<i>Age Periods</i>	<i>New Cases</i>				<i>Deaths</i>	
	<i>Pulmonary</i>		<i>Non-Pulmonary</i>			
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-25 years	3	—	—	—	—	—
26-35 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-45 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
46-55 years	—	—	—	—	1	—
56-65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—
Over 65	—	—	—	—	—	—
Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	3	—	—	—	1	—

From the above table it will be seen that 3 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during 1958. One death from tuberculosis was recorded.

Re-housing of Tuberculosis Patients

Cases are referred from time to time by the Chest Physician for consideration for re-housing. These cases are classified as follows:—

Certificate No. 1. Sputum-positive cases where re-housing is considered urgent for the prevention of infection.

Certificate No. 2. Where better housing would be desirable in order to improve and maintain the patient's health.

Certificate No. 3. Where improved housing would be beneficial but is not an urgent matter.

None of the above certificates was received during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria immunisation is carried out systematically throughout the district by General Practitioners and County Medical Officers, in homes and schools.

Immunisation Statistics, 1958

<i>Age Group</i>		<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-9</i>	<i>10-14</i>	<i>Total under 15</i>
Primary imms. completed during 1958	Dip.	77	13	8	9	1	108
	Wh/c	65	13	7	2	—	87
Re-inf. inj.s. administered during 1958	Dip.	—	2	43	83	—	128
	Wh/c	—	2	35	7	—	44
Total immunised child population at 31st Dec, 1958	Pre 1/1/54	—	—	—	169	605	774
	Post 1/1/54	23	76	305	538	212	1154

Compared with 1957, the number of primary immunisations against diphtheria rose from 106 to 108. The number of reinforcing injections administered rose from 63 to 128. The total immunised child population at the end of the year was 1154 compared with 1243. The number of primary whooping cough immunisations fell from 119 to 87 and reinforcing rose from 9 to 44.

Smallpox Vaccination

Number of persons vaccinated (or re-vaccinated) during 1958:—

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Under 1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2-4</i>	<i>5-14</i>	<i>15 or over</i>	<i>Total</i>
Vaccinations	77	1	1	2	5	86
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	1	11	12

Approximately the same number of primary vaccinations were undertaken as in the previous year, while the number of re-vaccinations fell from 29 to 12.

Vaccination is performed under the National Health Service by General Practitioners. Emergency clinics can be operated in the event of an outbreak of smallpox in County Health Clinics at Salisbury and Swindon. Vaccination propaganda is undertaken by the County Health Authority.

Food Poisoning

No cases of food poisoning were reported.

National Assistance Act, 1948

SECTION 47: REMOVAL TO SUITABLE PREMISES OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION

It was not found necessary to obtain compulsory removal of any persons against their will from their homes.

This step is one that should only be considered after all the assistance that can be given by Home Helps, District Nurses, National Assistance Officers and Welfare Officers, etc., has failed to provide the care and attention needed.

REPORT

of the

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my eleventh Annual Report to this Council.

During 1958, I have continued to implement the Food Hygiene Regulations by means of informal action and considerable time has been spent on the Council's slum clearance programme. Meat inspection continues to form an important part of our duties necessitating work on every Sunday and Bank Holiday.

I would mention my gratitude to the Chairman and Members of the Council and Committees for their guidance, to Dr. Killoh for his co-operation and to Mr. Evans and Miss Pile for their assistance. The Rodent Operator and the seven members of the Refuse Collection and Disposal Staff have again carried out their duties to the obvious satisfaction of the householders in the district as complaints are negligible.

I have the honour to be, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. A. NOBLE,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

STAFF

Additional Public Health Inspector	Mr. D. L. Evans
Clerk/Typist	Miss V. A. Pile
Rodent Operator	Mr. A. H. Hart (part-time)
Refuse Collection	Mr. J. H. Goodenough (Foreman/Driver) Mr. H. Genders (Driver) Mr. P. Sutherland (Loader/Relief Driver) Mr. R. C. Trott Mr. R. G. Howe
Tip Operators	Mr. P. Sawyer Mr. G. Humphries

MEAT AND FOODS

			<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Bakehouses	...	...	2	25	1	—
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2	501	—	—
Butchers' Shops	...	...	4	3	—	—
Catering Establishments	...	...	26	25	1	1
Food Shops	...	...	44	76	5	10
Schools	...	...	16	12	—	5
Licensed Premises	...	...	28	33	2	1
Licensed Slaughtermen	...	...	5	—	—	—
Licensed Game Premises	...	...	1	2	—	—

Note—It will be noticed throughout this report that, on occasion, more notices are shown as "complied with" than "served." This is explained by work, requested in 1957, being completed in 1958.

The two private slaughterhouses have continued in operation during the year (animals slaughtered and condemnation figures are shown in Appendix "A").

Both the slaughterhouses have a high standard of construction and the methods of working are very satisfactory.

To obtain 100% inspection, overtime has to be worked every Sunday and Bank Holiday. Ante-mortem inspection is not possible. No horses have been slaughtered during the year.

In the course of the year, this district became a Tuberculosis Attested Area and this has now resulted in a remarkable drop in the cases of Tuberculosis in the slaughterhouses. However, other dangerous conditions and some cases of Tuberculosis continue to crop up and continued vigilance is necessary.

ICE-CREAM

			<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Retailers	...	...	27	282	—	—
Manufacturers	...	...	—	—	—	—

Our good sampling record has been maintained this year and it seems that the troubles of hygienic quality experienced in 1956 have now been overcome. Continued vigilance does, however, appear essential.

Total Number of Samples	...	...	...	...	227
-------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Percentage of Samples			
<i>Grade I</i>	<i>Grade I or II</i>	<i>Grade III</i>	<i>Grade IV</i>
87.2%	99.1%	0.9%	—

The Public Health Laboratory Service suggests that 50% of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade I, 80% into Grade I or II, no more than 20% into Grade III and none into Grade IV.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Dairies	...	...	...	...
Distributors	...	...	...	...
Producer/Retailers	...	...	...	...
	1	22	8	353

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations

"Tuberculin Tested" Dealers' Licences	...	...	11
"Pasteurised" Dealers' Licences	...	...	10
Supplementary "Tuberculin Tested" Licences	...	...	14
Supplementary "Pasteurised" Licences	...	...	12

Set out below are the sample results of "designated" milk.

Number of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	...	165
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested" Milk Samples	...	154
Number of "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	...	118
Number of Satisfactory "Pasteurised" Milk Samples	...	118
Number of "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	...	105
Number of Satisfactory "Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)" Milk Samples	...	104
Number of Biological Samples for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus	...	38
Number of Satisfactory Biological Samples	...	36

A great deal of time and travelling is involved to maintain our sampling routine. All sample failures are investigated immediately and no Distributor or Producer/Retailer has an unsatisfactory record for the year.

A modest routine of biological examination for Tubercle Bacillus and Brucella Abortus has been made on our raw Tuberculin Tested samples by Dr. Mann, of the Bath Public Health Laboratory.

Investigations were in hand, at the end of the year, on two biological samples which proved positive for Brucellosis.

WATER

Number of Public Water Supplies in the District	...	7
Number of Bacteriological Samples obtained during 1958		45
Number of samples taken for chemical analysis during 1958		—

Appendix "B" of this report sets out the sample results for the year.

I am not in a position to give, with any degree of accuracy, the number of houses and the population in each parish supplied from public water mains direct to houses or by means of stand-pipes. None of the water supplies appear to be liable to plumbo-solvent action.

The number of public supplies has been considerably reduced.

FACTORIES

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Factories with power	... 28	59	8	3
Factories without power	... 2	3	—	—
Outworkers	... 18	2	—	—

The requirements of the Factories Act, 1937, appear to be complied with and full details, as required by the Ministry, are mentioned in Appendix "C".

SHOPS

				<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Shops	...	...	...	44	25	—	—

The requirements of the Shops Act are fulfilled and conditions are generally satisfactory.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

				<i>Number</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Notices Served</i>	<i>Notices complied with</i>
Site Licences	...	...	9	}	58	2	2
Individual Licences	...	—	—				
Licences Refused	...	—	—				

It is pleasing to report that no complaints have been received during the year regarding gypsies at Norrington Common.

All the sites, licensed by the Council, have been inspected to ensure compliance with the licence conditions.

RODENT CONTROL

Details, in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, are given in Appendix "D".

The arrangement of a part-time Rodent Operator has proved satisfactory.

As required by the Ministry, the Holt sewerage system was test baited in August. Several "takes" were recorded and, as a result, various sections of the system were treated with poison.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection throughout the district is maintained with a limited service for some trade refuse and a collection, under contract, at the R.A.F. Station, Melksham Without. The Council's two diesel 10 cu. yd. vehicles—one Bedford and one Ford—have given good service.

Towards the end of the year, illness amongst the men caused some difficulty and temporary labour was employed.

SALVAGE

During the year, the following items of salvage have been sold:—

				<i>Weight</i>				<i>Approx. Value</i>		
				<i>tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Rags	...	...	...	3	10	1	0	35	2	6
Waste Paper	...	...	...	42	3	2	0	281	10	3
Scrap Metal	...	...	...	6	8	0	13	27	5	7
				Total				£343	18	4

Towards the end of the year, the price for salvaged waste paper was reduced to £6 per ton, but the Council have continued to recover this raw material.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING SERVICE

This service, brought into operation in 1948, has been utilised to clear 398 cesspools and septic tanks during 1958.

The Contractors, employed by the Council, visit the district every 3 months and it has been useful to many householders to have a standing order for such clearances with the Council.

This service has grown from 75 clearances in 1948 to 398 clearances during 1958.

HOUSING

Number of houses inspected and recorded	...	...	23
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	23
Number of houses suitable for action under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	—
Number of Demolition Orders issued	...	...	9
Number of Closing Orders issued	...	...	6
Number of undertakings accepted under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	20
Number of notices under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	—

In accordance with the Council's policy, 23 cottages have been formally presented to the Housing Committee as suitable for action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. Every endeavour is made to persuade owners to undertake reconditioning schemes and to take advantage of Improvement Grants.

During the year, 12 cottages were demolished and 5 re-conditioned.

11 Improvement Grants (total £3,340) have been made during 1958. Inspections, checking plans and specifications on this work involves some considerable time which the resultant dwellings fully justifies.

No applications have been made during the year for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Act, 1957.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of inspections	...	...	199
Number of informal notices served	...	...	8
Number of statutory notices served	...	...	—
Number of informal notices complied with	...	...	3
Number of statutory notices complied with	...	...	—

Statutory and Court action taken in previous years in connection with the drainage from a piggery have resulted in an entirely new sewage disposal plant which, after some teething troubles, is beginning to show good results.

RIVERS, STREAMS AND SEWERAGE

Informal action has been taken in various parts of the district to prevent pollution of streams and water courses. Sewer ditches continue to be a problem. Only three of the 13 parishes (Winsley, Hilpertont and Holt) have sewerage systems but at the end of the year a new system was being installed at Atworth and the Council has plans for the sewerage of a portion of Melksham Without and the village of Broughton Gifford.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public in this area. Various samples and some advisory work was undertaken for a private pool at a school.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

During the course of the year, details have been obtained of the boilers at the industrial premises within our district and, I am glad to say, ready co-operation has been forthcoming from the Managements of the firms concerned. Smoke observations with Ringelmann Charts have shown that there are still contraventions of the Act and the Dark Smoke (Permitted Periods) Regulations, 1958, but I feel satisfied that everything possible is being done including the employment of a Consultant Combustion Engineer in one case.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premises Registered	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	8
Number of Samples obtained	...	...	...	11

Four samples of rag flock, three of cotton felt, one of feathers, two of kapok and one of hair were obtained. To save expense, these samples were taken informally. The results were not entirely satisfactory but full enquiries were made of each failure including approach to the suppliers and contact with the Public Health Inspector of the district concerned.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

Number of Premises Licensed	...	...	...	2
Number of Visits	...	...	...	2

Before renewal of licences, the premises are visited by me and the Local Inspector of the R.S.P.C.A., to whom my thanks are due for co-operation and advice.

AGRICULTURE (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956

The Council agreed that the enforcement of the Act could be carried out by the Rodent Operator whilst he was making routine inspections of farms. He has not found it possible to make many inspections in this connection and action had to be suspended for a time owing to Foot and Mouth Disease in the area.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS (WASTE FOODS) ORDER, 1957

Seven premises were licensed by this Council under the above Order and at various premises, the Council required improvements before the licence was issued. Routine inspections have been made and conditions are reasonable.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY SERVICE

I would like to make special mention of the very good service given to this Council by Dr. Mann and the Public Health Laboratory at Manor Hospital, Bath. All our milk, ice-cream and water samples are given prompt attention and it is of very great assistance to have Dr. Mann's advice so readily available.

GENERAL

The following visits have been made in connection with miscellaneous items requiring attention:—

Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	1801
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	78
Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	19
Miscellaneous Housing Visits and Small Dwellings Acquisition Act enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	699
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	6
Refuse Collection and Disposal	...	...	...	...	...	370
Rodent Control	...	...	...	...	...	34

APPENDIX "A"

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

	<i>Cattle excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>
Number killed ...	819	1,771	461	122	28	—
Number inspected ...	819	1,771	461	122	28	—
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	2	26	6	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	94	573	11	5	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis & Cysticerci ...	11.7	33.8	3.7	4.1	3.6	—
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	25	3	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	79	523	1	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	10.6	30.9	0.87	—	—	—
<i>Cysticercosis</i>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned ...	2	—	—	—	—	—

APPENDIX "B"

BACTERIOLOGICAL WATER SAMPLE RESULTS, 1958

<i>Name of Supply</i>	<i>Jan.</i>	<i>Feb.</i>	<i>Mar.</i>	<i>Apr.</i>	<i>May</i>	<i>Jun.</i>	<i>Jul.</i>	<i>Aug.</i>	<i>Sep.</i>	<i>Oct.</i>	<i>Nov.</i>	<i>Dec.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Conkwell Supply	U(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in January, 1949.
Bath City (Combe Down) Supply	S(2)	—	—	S(2)	—	—	S(2)	—	S(2)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Holt Water Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Chippenham Water Scheme	S(3)	—	—	S(3)	—	—	S(3)	—	S(3)	—	—	—	Purchased by Council on 26th March, 1956.
Turleigh Troughs Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
Trowbridge, Melksham & District Water Board	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	S(1)	—	—	—	Warning notice fixed in August, 1949.
Sandridge Lane Dip Hole Supply	S(1)	—	—	S(1)	—	—	U(1)	—	U(1)	—	—	—	Chlorinated supply.
													Warning notice fixed in July, 1956.

Note—S denotes satisfactory result. U denotes unsatisfactory result due to presence of faecal coli. (Number) denotes number of samples obtained during the month.

APPENDIX "C"

FACTORIES

	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
Inspections				
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority (non-power)	2	3	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (power)	28	59	1	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Defects				
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted</i>
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—
Drainage of Floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)				
(a) Insufficient	1	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	3	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1959

	<i>Type of Property</i>				
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>				<i>Agri- cultural</i> (5)
	<i>Local Authority (1)</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)</i>	<i>All other (including business premises) (3)</i>	<i>Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)</i>	
I. Number of properties in Local Authorities' District	5	3388	310	3703	220
II. Number of properties inspected as a result of:	—	33	14	47	1
(a) Notification					
(b) Survey under the Act	5	114	17	136	34
(c) Otherwise (e.g., when visited primarily for some other purpose) ...	—	23	176	199	—
III. Total inspections carried out, including re-inspections	Not	readily	available		
IV. Number of properties inspected which were found to be infested by:	—	4	—	4	1
(a) Rats Major					
Minor	5	74	6	85	1
(b) Mice Major	—	—	—	—	—
Minor	—	6	4	10	—

APPENDIX "D" (continued)

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

Report for 12 months ended 31st March, 1959

	<i>Type of Property</i>				
	<i>Non-Agricultural</i>				<i>Agric- ultural</i>
	<i>Local Authority (1)</i>	<i>Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses) (2)</i>	<i>All other (including business premises) (3)</i>	<i>Total of Cols. (1), (2) & (3) (4)</i>	
V. Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority	5	80	9	94	—
VI. Total treatments carried out, including re-treatments	Not	readily	availab	le	
VII. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act:					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (i.e., Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
VIII. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Section 4 of the Act ...	—	—	—	—	—
IX. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
X. Number of "block" control schemes carried out	—	5	—	5	—

